CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing heterocyclic aldehyde, which comprises reacting a heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring with a hypohalogenous acid salt in the presence of a base to oxidize said hydroxymethyl group,
wherein the reaction is conducted in the co-presence of a 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl derivative having at least two 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl-4-yl groups.

2. The process of Claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a heterocyclic compound represented by formula (1):

(1)

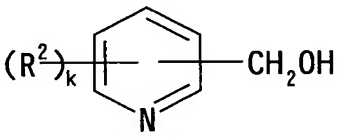
(wherein Q represents a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyrazine ring or a thiophene ring; CH_2OH and R^1 are substituents bonded to a carbon atom of a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyrazine ring or a thiophene ring; R^1 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group or a halogen atom; j is an integer of 0 to 4 when Q is a pyridine ring, or an integer of 0 to 3 when Q is a pyridazine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyrazine ring or a thiophene ring) and

said heterocyclic aldehyde is a heterocyclic aldehyde represented by formula (2):

(2)

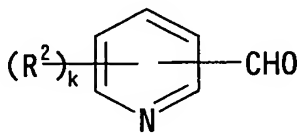
(wherein Q, R^1 and j are the same as above).

3. The process of Claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a pyridinemethanol represented by formula (3):



(3)

(wherein CH_2OH and R^2 are substituents bonded to a carbon atom of a pyridine ring; R^2 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group or a halogen atom; k is an integer of 0 to 4) and said heterocyclic aldehyde is a pyridinecarbaldehyde represented by formula (4):

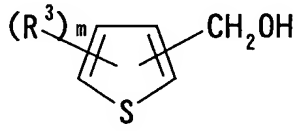


(4)

(wherein R^2 and k are the same as above).

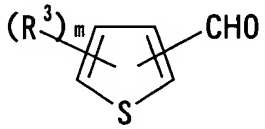
4. The process of Claim 3, wherein said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a pyridinemethanol shown in formula (3), wherein R^2 is an alkyl group and k is an integer of 0 to 4, and said heterocyclic aldehyde is a pyridinecarbaldehyde shown in formula (4), wherein R^2 is an alkyl group and k is an integer of 0 to 4.

5. The process of Claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a thiophenemethanol represented by formula (5):



(5)

(wherein CH_2OH and R^3 are substituents bonded to a carbon atom of a thiophene ring; R^3 represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, a nitro group, a hydroxy group or a halogen atom; m is an integer of 0 to 3) and said heterocyclic aldehyde is a thiophenecarbaldehyde represented by formula (6):



(6)

(wherein R^3 and m are the same as above).

6. The process of Claim 5, wherein said heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring is a thiophenemethanol shown in formula (5), wherein R^3 is an alkyl group and m is an integer of 0 to 3, and said heterocyclic aldehyde is a thiophenecarbaldehyde shown in formula (6), wherein R^3 is an alkyl group and m is an integer of 0 to 3.